

AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF NURSES OR WOMEN MEDICAL SPECIALISTS TO BE MEMBERS OF THE ARMY OR AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. BROOKS of Louisiana, from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 7290]

The Committee on Armed Services, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7290) to authorize female Reserve officers of the Army or Air Force appointed as nurses or women medical specialists to be members of the Army National Guard of the United States or Air National Guard of the United States, as appropriate, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill as amended to pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

That section 57 of the Act of June 3, 1916, as amended, (32 U. S. C. 1), is further amended by inserting after the words "forty-five years of age," the words "and of female citizens of the United States who are appointed as commissioned officers of the National Guard under section 58 of this Act,".

SEC. 2. Section 58 of the Act of June 3, 1916, as amended, (32 U. S. C. 4), is further amended as follows:

(a) Insert the word "male" immediately before the word "citizens" where it appears in that section; and

(b) Delete the colon preceding the proviso at the end of the section, substitute a comma in lieu thereof and insert the words "and female commissioned officers appointed to serve as nurses and medical specialists who are citizens of the United States, at least 21 years of age, are graduates of hospitals or university training schools and registered nurses if appointed to serve as nurses, and have the physical and other qualifications prescribed by the Secretary of the Army:".

SEC. 3. The amendments made by section 1 and section 2 of this Act apply to the Air National Guard of the several States, Territories, and the District of Columbia, and the authority granted therein to the Secretary of the Army with respect to the National Guard is granted to the Secretary of the Air Force with respect to the Air National Guard.

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SEC. 4. The Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1952 is amended as follows:

(a) The first sentence of subsection 217 (b) (66 Stat. 486; 50 U. S. C. 941

(b)) is amended to read as follows: "Subject to section 222 (a) of this Act and if otherwise qualified, women may be appointed as Reserve officers of the Army or Air Force for service as nurses or medical specialists in the National Guard of the United States or Air National Guard of the United States, as appropriate. Women may be appointed or enlisted as Reserves in the Armed Forces of the United States for service in the Army Reserve, the Naval Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, and the Air Force Reserve. Women are appointed or enlisted in the grades, ranks, and rating authorized for women in the Regular component of the appropriate Armed Force of the United States."

(b) A new section 715 is added as follows:

"Sec. 715. Except as otherwise specifically provided, laws applicable to male officers and former officers of the National Guard of the United States or the Air National Guard of the United States, and to their dependents and beneficiaries apply in like cases to female Reserve officers and female former Reserve officers of the National Guard of the United States or the Air National Guard of the United States, respectively, and to their dependents and beneficiaries. The husband of a female member of the National Guard of the United States or the Air National Guard of the United States may not be considered a dependent unless he is in fact dependent on his wife for over half of his support, and the child of such a member may not be considered a dependent unless he is in fact dependent on his mother for over half of his support."

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H. R. 7290 is to authorize the appointment of female Reserve officers of the Army or Air Force as nurses or women medical specialists in the Army National Guard of the United States or Air National Guard of the United States, as appropriate.

At the present time the Army National Guard has 13 hospital units (four mobile surgical, five 400-bed evacuation hospitals and four 750-bed evacuation hospitals) federally recognized with a table or organization of 558 nurses and 4 women medical specialists. The Air National Guard has 18 infirmaries and 19 tactical hospitals with a total allowance of 168. This represents a sum total of 726 nurses and 4 women medical specialists.

This type of legislation would provide a means of enhancing the mobilization potential of those medical units. The nurses would not only be receiving training themselves within the units, but would also be assisting considerably with the training of the unit enlisted personnel. And in case of an order to active duty the number of nurses that would have to be assigned to these units by Department of the Army or Air Force would be thereby reduced by the number already in. It should be mentioned that hospital units of the Army Reserve have female nurses and women medical specialists assigned to them at the present time.

The committee amended the bill by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting new language, as it was the opinion that the original language would be insufficient to authorize the appointment of female nurses and women medical specialists as commissioned officers of the National Guard of the United States and the Air National Guard of the United States. In addition to the language of the original bill it was considered necessary to amend sections 57 and 58 of the National Defense Act, which prescribes the composition of the National Guard.

COST AND BUDGET DATA

The cost of the bill will be \$750 per year for each female officer appointed. Although there are 730 vacancies in T. O. and E. units of both the Army and Air National Guard, it is estimated that approximately 100 female officers can be recruited during the next fiscal year. On the basis of this estimate the cost of the legislation for fiscal year 1957 would be \$75,000.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Department of Defense recommends enactment of the bill and the Bureau of the Budget interposes no objection. The Department letter follows:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
March 26, 1956.

Hon. CARL VINSON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Reference is made to your request to the Secretary of Defense for the views of the Department of Defense with respect to H. R. 7290, 84th Congress, a bill to authorize female Reserve officers of the Army or Air Force appointed as nurses or women medical specialists to be members of the Army National Guard of the United States or Air National Guard of the United States, as appropriate. The Secretary of Defense has delegated to the Department of the Army the responsibility for expressing the views of the Department of Defense thereon.

The Department of the Army on behalf of the Department of Defense favors the general purpose of the above-mentioned bill but is of the opinion that H. R. 7290, 84th Congress, if enacted, would not be legally sufficient to authorize the appointment of female nurses and women medical specialists as commissioned officers of the National Guard of the United States and Air National Guard of the United States. Present law, section 222 (a), Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1952 (66 Stat. 487; 50 U. S. C. 946 (a)), provides that appointment as a commissioned officer of the National Guard or Air National Guard of a State, Territory, or the District of Columbia is a necessary condition precedent to appointment as a commissioned officer in the National Guard of the United States or the Air National Guard of the United States. As a result, it is considered necessary to amend sections 57 and 58 of the National Defense Act (32 U. S. C. 1; 4), which prescribe the composition of the National Guard, as well as section 217 (b) of the Armed Forces Reserve Act (66 Stat. 486; 50 U. S. C. 941 (b)) which makes provision for appointment of women as commissioned officers in the Armed Forces for service in certain specified reserve components. A revised draft bill considered legally sufficient to accomplish the purpose for which intended is submitted herewith. It is recommended that the revised draft bill be substituted for H. R. 7290, 84th Congress.

The Department of the Army is unable to estimate the fiscal effect of this proposed legislation. The cost would depend upon the number of individuals commissioned and their activity in the National Guard and Air National Guard training programs.

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This report has been coordinated within the Department of Defense in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report to the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

WILBER M. BRUCKER,
Secretary of the Army.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with clause 3 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, there is herewith printed in parallel columns the text of provisions of existing law which would be repealed or amended by the various provisions of the bill:

EXISTING LAW (66 Stat. 486)

The first sentence of Section 217
(b) (66 Stat. 486):

"Women may be appointed or enlisted as Reserves in the Armed Forces of the United States for service in the Army Reserve, the Naval Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, and the Air Force Reserve, as appropriate, in the same grades, ranks, and ratings, as are authorized for women in the Regular component of the appropriate Armed Force of the United States."

THE BILL

The first sentence of Section 217
(b) (66 Stat. 486) as amended by
H. R. 7290:

"Subject to section 222 (a) of this Act and if otherwise qualified, women may be appointed as Reserve officers of the Army or Air Force for service as nurses or medical specialists in the Army National Guard of the United States or Air National Guard of the United States, as appropriate, and women may be appointed or enlisted as reserves in the Armed Forces of the United States for service in the Army Reserve, the Naval Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, and the Air Force Reserve, as appropriate, in the same grades, ranks, and ratings, as are authorized for women in the Regular component of the appropriate Armed Force of the United States."

Add a new section 715 to read as follows:

"Except as otherwise specifically provided, all laws now or hereafter applicable to male officers and former officers of the Army National Guard of the United States or Air National Guard of the United States, and to their dependents and beneficiaries shall in like cases be appli-

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cable respectively to female Reserve officers and female former Reserve officers of the Army National Guard of the United States or Air National Guard of the United States, as appropriate, and to their dependents and beneficiaries except as may be necessary to adapt said provisions to the female persons in the Army National Guard of the United States or Air National Guard of the United States. The husbands of women members of the Army National Guard of the United States and Air National Guard of the United States shall not be considered dependent on their wives for over half of their support, and the children of such members shall not be considered dependents unless they are in fact dependent on their mother for over half of their support."

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